

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session

By Conference Call

Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks & Swearing In of New Member**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Cynthia Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary and AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes from Emergency Session on June 15, 2020**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 4. COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders by Judicial Council Members**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
 - A. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Update (Judge Shawn LaGrua)
- 5. Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC (Est. Time – 20 min.)**
 - A. Supreme Court
 - B. Court of Appeals
 - C. Business Court
 - D. Council of Superior Court Judges
 - E. Council of State Court Judges
 - F. Council of Juvenile Court Judges
 - G. Council of Probate Court Judges
 - H. Council of Magistrate Court Judges
 - I. Council of Municipal Court Judges
 - J. State Bar of Georgia
 - K. Administrative Office of the Courts

6. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 10 Min.)

- A. Council of Accountability Court Judges**
- B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**
- C. Council of Superior Court Clerks**
- D. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism**
- E. Georgia Council of Court Administrators**
- F. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education**
- G. Judicial Qualifications Commission**

7. Old/New Business

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meetings – General Session

Friday, August 14, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Columbus Convention & Trade Center/Columbus, GA
Friday, December 11, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar – 2021

Friday, February 12, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building/ Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 23, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Classic Center/Athens, GA
Friday, August 13, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Location TBD
Friday, December 10, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

Please continue to check www.georgiacourts.gov (the Judicial Gateway) for the latest updates and information. Thank you and continue to be safe!

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session
Conference Call
June 15, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

Members Present

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair
Presiding Justice David Nahmias
Chief Judge Brian Amero
Chief Judge Berryll Anderson
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley
Judge Michael Barker
Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr. (for Judge
Carl C. Brown, Jr.)
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher
Judge Jimmie Brown (for Judge W. James
Sizemore, Jr.)
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter
Judge Kerri B. Carter
Judge Walter W. Davis
Chief Judge Donald W. Gillis
Chief Judge Asha Jackson
Ms. Dawn Jones
Judge Lisa C. Jones
Judge Jeffrey H. Kight
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden
Judge C. Gregory Price
Vice Chief Judge Brian Rickman
Judge Dale "Bubba" Samuels
Judge Wesley B. Taylor
Judge Ralph Van Pelt, Jr.
Judge Willie C. Weaver
Chief Judge Kelli M. Wolk

Members Absent

Judge J. Wade Padgett
Judge James G. Tunison, Jr.

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Director
Ms. Michelle Barclay
Mr. Jorge Basto
Ms. Jessica Farah
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez
Ms. Tynesha Manuel
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. Lashawn Murphy
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson
Ms. Maleia Wilson

(Guests Appended)

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Harold Melton. The Chief Justice administered the oath to Ms. Dawn Jones as the newest Council member. Ms. Clanton called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance to Ms. Robinson for the purposes of the minutes.

COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Order by Judicial Council Members

Chief Justice Melton reported the Third Extension of Statewide Judicial Emergency was issued Friday, June 12, 2020. The order announces a plan to reimpose as of July 14, 2020, many of the deadlines imposed by law on litigants and parties in civil and criminal cases. Council members were encouraged to continue to share feedback and challenges with Ms. Clanton. Chief Justice Melton recognized Presiding Justice Nahmias, who provided clarity on case-specific orders, noting the difference between standing orders and standard orders. He clarified courts can use standard orders on a case, but the order must be attached to each applicable case.

Chief Justice Melton recognized Judge Shawn LaGrua, Chair of the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force, to provide an update on its work. The Subcommittees are creating best practices guides, which will be combined into a single guide for use by courts. Judge LaGrua reported the Georgia Court Reopening Guide has been updated and is available on the Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts' website.

Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC

Supreme Court. No report was provided.

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of State Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Probate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. No report was provided.

State Bar of Georgia. No report was provided.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton reported all court reopening guidelines received by the AOC have been posted on the website. Council members were encouraged to use the link in the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order for future submissions. The Ad Hoc Committee on Improving Community Access to Legal Resources was created and will be co-chaired by Justice Charles Bethel and Judge Robert McBurney.

Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Chief Judge Kathlene Gosselin stated the Council's understanding that the requirement of each accountability court to submit operating guidelines be done as part of the guidelines already submitted by their respective class of court.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Ms. Tracy Johnson reported the Commission is working on a draft update to the rules to clarify the encouragement of remote appearance, in lieu of physical appearance.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. No report was provided.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier reported the Commission on Professionalism will obtain new members at the start of the new fiscal year. The Commission's grant committee, chaired by Judge Susan Edlein, was established at the May meeting. There were 491 attendees at the Criminal Justice Professionalism and Coronavirus continuing legal education event last Thursday.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Adoption of Minutes – June 8, 2020

Chief Justice Melton directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the Emergency Session on June 8, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Presiding Justice Nahmias, with a second from Chief Judge McFadden. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

Concluding Remarks

Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2020.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Signatures on the next page

Respectfully submitted:

Tynesha Manuel
Assistant Director, Judicial Council/AOC
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the ____ day of
_____, 2020.

Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice

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Emergency Session
Conference Call
June 15, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

Guest Present

Ms. Therese Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Chuck Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Samantha Cannon, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Mr. Stephen E. Castlen, Court of Appeals of Georgia
Ms. Melissa Davies, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Chief Judge Reuben Green, Superior Court Cobb Judicial Circuit
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office Dispute on Resolution
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Judge Shawn LaGrua, Superior Court of Fulton County
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tia C. Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. David Mixon, Second District Court Administrator
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Jill G. Polster, Cohen & Hirsch Criminal Defense
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Jimmonique Rodgers, Georgia Public Defender Council
Ms. Claudia Saari, State Court of Dekalb County
Judge Fletcher Sams, Fayette County Superior Court
Chief Presiding Judge Juliette Scales, Juvenile Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Judge J. Stephen Schuster, Superior Court of Cobb County
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Ms. Christina Smith, Court of Appeals of Georgia
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Mr. Jason Stephenson, Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Ms. Courtney Veal, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice
Ms. Karen Wilkes, GPDC, Rome Conflict Defender Office
Judge Alvin T. Wong, Dekalb County Courthouse
Mr. Rodney Zell, Zell & Zell, P.C.